

OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division



**Fourth Quarter
April - June 2019**

Two Years Old!

by Director Burke Fitzpatrick

Crime Victim Services Division

The Crime Victim Services Division in the Office of the Attorney General is two years old! In July 2017 the Division was created by legislation and scattered victims of crime services were consolidated (I like to think that we were adopted) into Attorney General Alan Wilson's office. Everyone, especially the victim service provider community throughout the state, had high expectations for us. Well, 24 months later I'd like to know what you think.

If you work with us in the areas of compensation, grants, victim service provider training, certification or interact with the Ombudsman's Office... has it been better, the same, or have we come up short? I don't mean to, ah, bias the results, but here are some things I'm pretty sure everyone would agree have improved:

- In our Department of Crime Victim Compensation claims processing times have been reduced from an average of 107 days to 59 and it's getting even better. This is great news for victims and surely fewer headaches for victim advocates.

- Victim Service Provider training standards have been updated for the first time in a decade under the leadership of our new training and certification department. We also now approve a Human Trafficking Victim Service Provider certification as mandated by legislation.
- Grant funding has risen from about \$28 million in 2016 to over \$50 million in the current year. This has allowed us to fill many gaps across the state and support new and innovative programs. We've also added more financial staff for faster Request For Payment turnarounds.
- Our Ombudsman's Office is helping more Advocates, Solicitors, Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police resolve victims' rights issues than ever before.

So, enough of tooting our own horn and biasing the feedback. We have many areas ahead that need improvement in the coming year. Chief among these is our new AGO Grants system. The implementation of this grants management software has driven us crazy.

Most of the problems have been behind the scenes, but some of the issues have inconvenienced our sub-grantees. We are working literally every day with the vendor to iron out these problems.

Similarly, we remain hobbled by an antiquated legacy software system in compensation and certification. It has only been through the heroic efforts of staff that we've been able to improve services. If we can get the software replaced this year with a modern system we will be much quicker and more agile in serving you.

Our entire mission is to serve the victim of crime provider community and victims throughout South Carolina. Let me know how we are doing: good; great; not so good; meh. Send me an email or give me a call with your ideas, suggestions or encouragement. My email is BFitzpatrick@scag.gov and my direct office number is 803-734-0787. Also, you can reach me by cell phone at 803-917-1439.

DID YOU KNOW?

July:

International Day of Friendship is Tuesday, July 30, 2019

National Park and Recreation Month

August:

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 6, 2019

September:

National Preparedness Month

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DID YOU KNOW?

(excerpts and information from Office for Victims of Crime website <https://ovc.gov>)

The Office for Victims of Crime of the U.S. Department of Justice:

- **Provides** funding to state victim compensation and assistance programs.
- **Develops** research-informed training and publications.
- **Supports** innovative programs, promising practices, and resource centers.
- **Connects** victims with resources.

Explore OVC.gov today!

Hunting Island State Park
Beaufort,
South Carolina



Laying Down Our Burdens...Cultivating Joy

by Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

Department of Crime Victim Ombudsman (DCVO)

During a recent meeting of the Victim Service Coordinating Council, we discussed the predictable eventuality of secondary trauma and burnout in our profession. We are constantly exposed to violence, fear, anger and pain. It is only natural that, as empathetic people, we are effected negatively.

We are forming a group to develop ideas to support our peers during crises. For example, we all know how critical it is to be able to "debrief" with people who *truly understand* after living through a traumatic situation. We are blessed here at the Division of Crime Victim Services to have peers to whom we can "vent" after we have listened to the anguish of a parent whose child has been murdered, been screamed at, or frustrated by our system's inability to always protect innocent lives. We want all victims to have the justice they deserve, and we all know that does not happen. It hurts! How can we support each other during these times of crisis?

We came across a great article on NPR that gives us some guidance about how to best cope with stress. "When you're experiencing a lot of stress, it's easy to head into a downward spiral," says therapist Judith Moskowitz, who consulted on an online program called "It's All Good Here," which teaches us to focus on what IS instead of what's lost. <https://itsallgoodhere.com/about>

Here's a quick summary of the eight techniques used in Moskowitz's study:

1. Take a moment to identify one positive event each day.
2. Tell someone about the positive event or share it on social media. This can help you savor the moment a little longer.
3. Start a daily gratitude journal. Aim to find little things you're grateful for, such as a good cup of coffee, a pretty sunrise or nice weather.
4. Identify a personal strength and reflect on how you've used this strength today or in recent weeks.
5. Set a daily goal and track your progress. "This is based on research that shows when we feel progress towards a goal, we have more positive emotions," Moskowitz says. The goal should not be too lofty. You want to be able to perceive progress.
6. Try to practice "positive reappraisal": Identify an event or daily activity that is a hassle. Then, try to reframe the event in a more positive light. Example: If you're stuck in traffic, try to savor the quiet time. If you practice this enough, it can start to become a habit.
7. Do something nice for someone else each day. These daily acts of kindness can be as simple as giving some-

one a smile or giving up your seat on a crowded train. Research shows we feel better when we're kind to others.

8. Practice mindfulness by paying attention to the present moment. You can also try a 10-minute breathing exercise that uses a focus on breathing to help calm the mind.

Please email me at VKunz@scag.gov if you are interested in getting together to discuss peer-to-peer solutions to decrease secondary trauma of Victim Service Providers.

Read the article here: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/05/05/719780061/from-gloom-to-gratitude-8-skills-to-cultivate-joy>



Elder Abuse and Neglect

(excerpts and information from Victim Connect Resource Center (A Program of The National Center for Victims of Crime) website <https://victimconnect.org>)

What is Elder Abuse and Neglect?

Elder abuse includes physical, sexual, financial, emotional/psychological, and neglect/abandonment. Though the definition of elder abuse may vary by state, elder abuse is widely believed to be committed by those in a trusting relationship with the older adult.

What does Elder Abuse Look Like?

While this list isn't exhaustive, you may be a victim of elder abuse if someone:

- Hits, shoves, strangles, or otherwise physically harms you
- Threatens to harm
- Touches you or forces you to do sexual things you do not want to do
- Intentionally scares you
- Yells at you or calls you names
- Prevents you from contacting family member and friends

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Grant Review and Notification

by Deputy Director BJ Nelson

Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG)

On April 30th, the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG) closed its 2019 application cycle after a six week open period. The Department received 158 applications requesting upwards of \$46,000,000 between the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the State Victim Assistance Program (SVAP) grant programs.

This was the first year that applications were submitted entirely through the new AGO Grants system. A training webinar was held on March 18 and simultaneously live streamed via a webinar for outside agencies to view. Webinars were also uploaded after the fact to assist agencies with applications.

Staff has now begun the work of reviewing and analyzing all appli-

cations. We plan to provide official notification of awards or denials no later than the first of September.



Department Updates

by Deputy Director Kim Hamm

Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST)

Online Forms

Stepping into the 21st century, the Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis has upgraded all Victim Service Provider (VSP) forms to electronic submission forms. All forms can be found online via our website, www.ovsec.sc.gov. If you have any questions or comments regarding our online forms, please email them to cvst@scag.gov

VSP-HT

In May 2019, the inaugural cohort of specialized human trafficking service providers (VSP-HT) completed training requirements making them the first class of specialized human trafficking service providers in South Carolina. The Attorney General's VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs staff will continue to provide this specialized training track for those who meet the VSP-HT criteria determined by the Human Trafficking Task Force.

A second iteration of this specialized training is being planned for the end of the calendar year 2019.

CVST staff assisted in the development and implementation of the VSP-HT training in collaboration with the state Human Trafficking Task Force coordinator, Kathryn Moorehead.

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Who Are Truckers Against Trafficking?

(excerpts from Truckers Against Trafficking website <https://truckersagainstrafficking.org>)

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) began as an initiative of Chapter 61 Ministries in 2009. TAT became its own 501(c)3 in 2011.

Truckers Against Trafficking's Mission

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a 501(c)3 that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking and busing industries to combat human trafficking.

Our Goals

- Saturate trucking and busing industries with TAT materials
- Partner with law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking
- Marshal the resources of our partners to combat this crime

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A Quick Guide to DCVC's Reimbursement of Lost Wages for Crime Victims

by Claims Analyst Christy Stinney

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

What happens when a victim of a crime, at no fault of their own, has to take time off from work to heal and they don't have a safety net at their place of employment? Hopefully, every victim advocate in South Carolina knows they can turn to DCVC to determine if they are eligible for the agency's lost wage benefit.

Application

Victims seeking lost wages must complete and sign a DCVC application. In addition, DCVC will need the following documents: (1) a law enforcement incident report listing the victim; (2) An Employer's Report, which is a standard DCVC form required for the eligible person's employer to complete; (3) If the victim/claimant is self-employed, the Self-employment Verification Form which is also a standard DCVC form for the claimant to complete and have notarized; and (4) The DCVC Physician's Disability Report and/or the DCVC Physician's Disability Loss of Support Report which is required to establish disability (temporary inability to work) by the victim's treating physician; and (5) must provide proof of reportable income such as the victim/claimant's last two pay stubs, W2's, 1099 or the most recent tax return transcripts.

Eligibility

DCVC must first establish that the victim is eligible under the state law that governs our agency. The claim must be found eligible under DCVC's basic guidelines:

(1) the crime occurred in South Carolina within the past 4 years (or at any time after a diagnosis of injury related to the crime) and reported to law enforcement in a timely manner; (2) the victim meets the statutory definition of a crime victim; and (3) the victim did not contribute to their victimization.

Next, the victim must meet DCVC's lost wage eligibility guidelines: (1) the victim/claimant must be employed or self-employed at the time of the crime; (2) they must have missed two or more consecutive weeks of work (may be waived in hardship cases); (3) must not have some other source of reimbursement such as accrued leave from work, or insurance (remember DCVC is the payer of last resort); and (4) was under the care of a physician for the disability resulting from the crime.

Benefit Provisions

(1) The maximum benefit DCVC reimburses a victim for lost wages is \$7,500 or a twelve-month disability period, although DCVC may exceed that amount in certain circumstances; (2) DCVC can reimburse up to 30 days of lost wages for the spouse or a parent who missed work to care for the direct victim; (3) For the victim/claimant who is under the age of 65 years old, DCVC can pay two-thirds of the weekly gross wages up to DCVC's current weekly compensation rate; and (4) DCVC can pay 100% of the weekly gross wages for an eligible person who is 65 years and older, up to the maximum benefit.

Processing

When a claim is found eligible and the required documents have been submitted and verified, the claim may be approved for payment. DCVC will process one lump sum payment from the first eligible date of absence from work to the current eligible date. Subsequent payments will be processed on the last week of the month. DCVC will process a payment in the form of a check and mailed to the address on file. **For more information about lost wages, please contact Christy Stinney, Linda Leneau or Jackie Jeter in the Processing Services Department of DCVC at (803) 734-1900.**

Please note: For the purposes of this article on how DCVC processes lost wages, a person who is seeking lost wages, is a victim who has sustained an injury as a result of a crime. A claimant is the person who took off from work to care for the victim.

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- Threatens to leave or send you to a nursing home
- Tricks you out of your money or property
- Forces you to sign documents or give money or property
- Takes your money or property without permission
- Abandons you or neglects you by failing to provide the medicine, food, and care you need from them

What Can You Do?

- Call 911 for Immediate Assistance
- Alert Others-doctors, friends, or family members
- Locate resources in your community
- Report the Abuse
- Locate Your Ombudsman
- Stay Connected-Friends and family members that you trust
- Create a Safety Plan

For additional information visit
<https://victimconnect.org>

**Community Outreach Services****Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)****Law Enforcement and Victim Advocate Outreach Initiative**

DCVC collaborated with 13 of 18 municipalities and county law enforcement agencies within the Second Judicial Circuit to conduct 11 trainings with law enforcement and victim advocates.

Outlined below is a breakdown of how many agencies and participants were trained:

- Agencies coordinated-**13**
- Agencies trained-**11**
- Law Enforcement Officers trained-**84**
- Victim Advocates trained-**10**
- Total number of Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates trained-**94**

According to the overall training summary survey evaluations, the outreach initiative was beneficial for law enforcement and victim advocates. The majority of the participants felt that the training educated them on victim issues, and they could apply what they learned on the job.

Below are a few comments regarding what participants liked most about the training:

- Training was informative
- Videos were helpful; showing real life examples and the importance of the first responder
- Training provided a better perspective of dealing with victims

- Presenters were very professional, knowledgeable and willing to answer questions
- The overall workshop met their needs

Since the training has concluded in the Second Circuit, during the months of April and May, DCVC collaborated with 4 of 10 municipalities and County law enforcement agencies within the Third Judicial Circuit regarding training. As a result, 10 law enforcement and victim advocate trainings have been scheduled.

Currently, 6 trainings in this circuit are complete. The agencies that received training were Manning Police Department and the Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

Please see information below on the trainings completed in this circuit:

- Law Enforcement Officers trained-**58**
- Victim Advocates trained-**4**
- Total number of Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates trained as of June 30, 2019-**62**

The additional dates for law enforcement and victim advocate trainings in the circuit are as follows:

- **July 9, 2019** - Clarendon County Sheriff's Office
- **July 11, 2019** - Clarendon County Sheriff's Office
- **July 12, 2019** - Kingstree Police Department

- **July 16, 2019** - Sumter Police Department

DCVC will continue to conduct trainings in the Third Judicial Circuit and provide additional updates.

York County Victim Services Fair

The First Annual Victim Services Fair was held May 11, 2019 at the Rock Hill Police Department, located at 120 East Black Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730.

During this inaugural event, participants networked, collaborated and shared best practices in victim services for crime victims in York County.

Among the agencies that participated were; Rock Hill Police Department, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office, York County Sheriff's Office, Safe Passage Inc., South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, Catawba Indian Nation, Catawba Area Human Trafficking Task Force, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN), South Carolina Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Program (SC SAVIN), Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and The Office of the Attorney General, Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC).

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**Who Are Truckers
Against Trafficking?**
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WHAT WE DO

**Targeted Systems
Change → Discover
and Disrupt Human
Trafficking Networks**

The trucking industry has shown they are in the business of saving lives through Truckers Against Trafficking, and the results prove it:

- Calls into the national hotline have skyrocketed since TAT's inception.
- Recovery stories of women and children who were being trafficked for commercial sex are coming in.

The trucking industry is partnering with law enforcement as our coalition builds all across the nation.

The TCA, the ATA, the NATSO Foundation, the CVTA, the NAPFTDS, NASTC, OOIDA, numerous state trucking associations, carriers, companies and schools have all announced their support of TAT through strategic partnerships.

Congress recognized the work of the trucking industry via TAT on its floor.

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Community Outreach Services cont. Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

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This was a fun event filled with victim resources, finger printing for children, balloon art, children's games, snacks and laughter.

Overall, the committee members worked together to make this an awesome and successful event!

We are currently collaborating with another group of advocates to discuss the next Victim Services Fair for the Spring of 2020. Additional information will be forthcoming. So, stay tuned!

Community Outreach

The Outreach Coordinator set up DCVC displays with Harvest Hope Food Bank and at the South Carolina Mortician's Association Annual Convention.

These events are an opportunity for the outreach coordinator to share information on DCVC's program, services and benefits. In addition, this allows the coordination of trainings with interested participants regarding crime victim compensation across the state.

Upcoming Outreach:

- July 18, 2019 Harvest Hope Food Bank-DCVC Display
- August 13, 2019 Harvest Hope Food Bank-DCVC Display

DCVC displays set up during South Carolina Department of Education Fall Regional Workshops are noted below:

September 13, 2019

Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina

September 27, 2019

Greenville Convention Center, Greenville, South Carolina

October 8, 2019

Francis Marion University, Florence South Carolina

October 11, 2019

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

November 8, 2019

Charleston Southern University, Charleston, South Carolina

York County Victim Services Fair



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The trucking industry gained global recognition when TAT was included in the United Nation's 100 Best Practices list to combat human trafficking.

Tens of thousands now follow us via our social media channels and are being pro-active in bringing this message back to their companies.

Winner of the Norma Hoteling Award for Demand Reduction.

Truckers are increasing awareness to the general public as well– through the school system, in churches, neighborhoods, on the backs or sides of their trucks, and at conferences.

According to excerpts and information found at CNBC

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/24/7-tips-for-staying-safe-while-traveling.html>

Seven Tips for Staying Safe While Traveling are:

1. Avoid using public Wi-Fi
2. Password-protect phones and add tracking tools
3. Don't post location or agenda on social media
4. Bring only what you need; lock up what you do
5. Keep a record of important documents
6. Monitor credit cards and reports
7. Protect your home while you're away

Department Updates cont.

by Deputy Director Kim Hamm

Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST)

Inaugural VSP-HT Class, May 2019



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Training Announcement

The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division and the South Carolina Victim Services Coordinating Council (VSCC) will sponsor a free basic core VSP training for victim advocates who need to obtain their VSP certification in December 2019. This training will meet the VSP 2.0 training requirements for basic core training and is approved for 15 hours of VSP credit.

For the past several years the VSCC has co-sponsored this training, and after repeated requests to offer this training event in different areas of the state- we are taking the show on the road! Thank you to Sheriff

Lee Foster and the Newberry County Sheriff's Office for offering their training facility for this important training.

Registration will be available online in Fall 2019 at <http://ovsec.sc.gov/training.html>.

FREE! SAVE THE DATE

VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER (VSP) BASIC CORE TRAINING

15-hour certification course

December 4-6, 2019
9:00am - 5:00pm

Newberry County Sheriff's Office
520 Wilson Road, Newberry, SC 29108

Registration information coming soon!
www.ovsec.sc.gov

Communication

VICTIMS' RIGHTS

Criminal Justice System

Sponsors:
South Carolina Victim Services Coordinating Council &
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General
Crime Victim Services Division

DCVC Training and Events Statewide

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)



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There were 16 trainings conducted by the Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) during the Fourth Quarter, and 313 participants trained regarding DCVC's program, services and benefits.

Please see below an outlined list of future DCVC training and events.

Upcoming Training and Events:

- August 30, 2019 - DCVC training for Crawford Funeral Home in Lancaster, SC
- September 24, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- October 8, 2019 - DCVC training for SC Department of Education Fall Regional Workshops in Florence, SC-Francis Marion University
- August 19, 2019 - DCVC training for Whitaker Funeral Home in Newberry, SC
- August 22, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA, For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- December 10, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>



BE SAFE AS YOU TRAVEL THIS SUMMER

